

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The center tube of claim 9;~~ A center tube for use with an oil filter cap which has a detent button operable to release said center tube from said filter cap, said center tube comprising:

a tube body having a number of orifices defined therein; and

a post having a first end portion which is secured to said tube body and a second end portion which is configured to be contacted by said detent button, wherein said second end portion of said post comprises a spheroid-shaped member.

11. (Original) The center tube of claim 10, wherein said spheroid-shaped member is configured to be captured by a number of spring arms associated with said oil filter cap.

12. (Original) The center tube of claim 11, wherein said spheroid-shaped member is configured to engage a number of cam surfaces defined in each of said number of spring arms.

13-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the tube body and the post are integral.

25. (New) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the tube body and the post are coaxial.

26. (New) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the post comprises a neck-down portion positioned between the first end portion and the spheroid-shaped member.

27. (New) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the tube body comprises (i) a perforated sleeve having the number of orifices defined therein and (ii) an imperforate sleeve that is secured to the perforated sleeve and surrounds the post.

28. (New) The center tube of claim 27, further comprising an annular flange extending radially outwardly from the imperforate sleeve and surrounding the post.

29. (New) The center tube of claim 27, wherein the first end portion is secured to the tube body between the perforated sleeve and the imperforate sleeve.

30. (New) A center tube for use with an oil filter cap which has a detent button operable to release said center tube from said filter cap, said center tube comprising:

a tube body having a number of orifices defined therein; and

a post that is secured to said tube body and has a spheroid-shaped member configured to be contacted by said detent button.

31. (New) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the spheroid-shaped member is spaced apart from the tube body.

32. (New) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the tube body surrounds the post.

33. (New) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the post comprises (i) a base secured to an inner surface of the tube body and (ii) a neck-down portion interconnecting the base and the spheroid-shaped member.

34. (New) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the tube body and the post are coaxial and integral.